

IRONING ORGANIZER

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The subject application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 10/329,725 filed 12/26/2002, and now U. S. Patent 6,695,155
5 granted 02/24/2004.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The subject invention relates to an organizer of the type having a shelf for supporting miscellaneous household items.

10 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0003] Organizers of the type to which the instant invention pertains are well known in the prior art. An example of one such prior art organizer is shown in U.S. Design Patent D451, 254 to Egan.

[0004] This type of organizer, wherein a shelf extends forwardly from
15 a backboard, consumes a relatively large volume of space, which is a detriment in a storage or shipping condition as well as a retail store display.

[0005] Various other organizers are disclosed in U. S. Patents 4,834,332 to Vanderbilt, 4,893,770 and 4,895,334 to Bajek et al, 5,415,472 to Brise and 5,875,902 to Emery et al.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

[0006] An organizer assembly of this invention comprises a backboard for mounting to a structure and a shelf for projecting from the backboard and is characterized by a coupling for removably connecting the shelf to the backboard. A backboard connector and a shelf connector mechanically interconnect with one

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another for supporting said shelf in a cantilevered position extending forwardly from said backboard and a hanger is disposed on the shelf for engaging the backboard connector for removably supporting the shelf in a storage position extending parallel and in overlapping relationship to the backboard.

5 **[0007]** Accordingly, the subject invention provides an organizer assembly that has a compact storage position for storage and shipping and a unique coupling for connecting the shelf to the backboard in either the cantilevered position of the shelf or the storage position of the shelf whereby the combination occupies a relatively small volume for storage and shipping.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated, as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings
15 wherein:

[0009] Figure 1 is perspective view of the subject invention shown in the storage position and encased in a wrapper for shipment and display;

[0010] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the assembly in the storage position;

20 **[0011]** Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the method of mounting to a support structure;

[0012] Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view showing the mechanical connection of the shelf to the backboard; and

[0013] Figure 5 is a perspective view showing the shelf supported on the backboard in the cantilevered position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 [0014] Referring to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, an ironing organizer assembly is generally shown at 10.

[0015] The assembly 10 comprises a backboard, generally indicated at 12, and including arms 14 for cradling the legs of an ironing board (not shown) and a shelf, generally indicated at 16, for projecting from the backboard 12 in a cantilevered position, as shown in Figure 5.

[0016] As shown in Figure 1, a wrapper 18 surrounds the backboard 12 and the shelf 16 in the storage position for shipping and display. The backboard 12 includes an upper shoulder 20 and a nose 22 extending upwardly from the upper shoulder 20 and defining a hole 24 therethrough. The wrapper surrounds the backboard 12 and the shelf 16 in the storage position and engages the upper shoulder 20 and defines an opening with the nose 22 extending therethrough. The wrapper may have information relating to the assembly and use of the assembly for presentation in a retail store as the assembly is hung on a display rack, or the like, via the nose 22 and hole 24 therein.

[0017] The assembly 10 is characterized by a coupling for removably connecting the shelf 16 to the backboard 12, either in the overlapping storage position or in the cantilevered position for use.

[0018] The coupling includes a backboard connector, generally indicated at 26, and a shelf connector, generally indicated at 28, that mechanically interconnect with one another for supporting the shelf 16 in a cantilevered position extending forwardly from the backboard 12, as shown in Figure 5. The backboard connector 26 includes a pair of embossments spaced laterally from one another and each having a top 30 and spaced sides 32 with a pair of flanges 34 extending in opposite directions from the sides 32 to define inside grooves facing one another and outside grooves facing towards the ends of the backboard. The shelf connector 28 includes a pair of C-shaped channels each with a cover 36 and opposing tongues 38 for sliding the tongues 38 into the grooves with each cover 36 engaging one of the tops 30 for supporting the shelf 16 in the cantilevered position. In other words, the covers 36 of the shelf connectors 28 engage and rest upon the tops 30 of the backboard connectors to limit downward movement of the shelf 16 on the embossments 26. Once in the cantilevered position, the upward movement of the shelf 16 out of the cantilevered position is limited by a pair of detents 40, i.e., a detent 40 disposed above each of the embossments 26 for engaging the covers 36 of the C-shaped channels for retaining the shelf 16 in the cantilevered position.

[0019] The shelf 16 includes a shelf surface 42 with a back wall 44 extending between ends and sidewalls 46 having upper and lower edges 48 and 50 extending forwardly from the ends of the back wall 44. The C-shaped channels are disposed in the back wall 44 and extend into the shelf, i.e., inwardly of the plane of the back wall 44. The walls 44 and 46 extend above and below the shelf surface 42 and strengthening ribs 52 are disposed on the bottom 60 of the shelf 16 and on the back of the backboard 12 (not shown) as is customary in components molded in

plastic material. In addition, the shelf **16** includes a cleat **54** projecting forwardly of the front portion for winding a chord thereabout. For example, an iron may be set upon the shelf with the electrical chord thereof wound around the cleat **54** during non-use. The sidewalls **46** present an opening **56** to the shelf surface **42** just rearward of the cleat **54**.

[0020] Alternatively or in combination, the coupling comprises a retainer for removably supporting the shelf **16** in a storage position extending parallel and in overlapping relationship to the backboard **12**, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. More specifically, the retainer includes a hanger comprising projections **58** disposed on the shelf **16** for engaging the backboard connector **26** for suspending the shelf **16** in the storage position. The embossments include a bottom **60** at the lower extremity of each of the inside facing grooves and the hanger includes a pair of the projections **58** extending in opposite directions from the shelf **16** for sliding engagement with the inside grooves and resting upon the bottoms **60** for suspending the shelf **16** from the backboard **12** in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2. The shelf **16** defines a front portion **62** more narrow than the distance between the ends of the back wall **44** and less than the distance between the inside grooves with the projections **58** being disposed on opposite sides of the front portion **62** of the shelf **16** and at the lower edges **50** of the sidewalls **46**.

[0021] The retainer may also include at least one and preferably a pair of tabs **64** extending laterally from the shelf **16** for engaging one of the arms **14** in the storage position to retain the shelf **16** inside of the arms **14** and in the parallel relationship to the backboard **12**. The tabs **64** extend laterally from the upper edges **48** of the sidewalls **46** at the ends of the back wall **44**. More specifically, each of the arms

14 projects outwardly from the backboard **12** through an upwardly and inwardly inclined surface **66** for receiving the diverging legs of an ironing board to an inwardly directed finger **68** for retaining the legs on the inclined surface **66** and for overlying one of the tabs **64** when the shelf **16** is in the storage position, as shown in Figure 2.

5 **[0022]** A plurality of mounting holes **70** extend thorough the embossments and the backboard **12** for mounting the backboard **12** to a structure as by screws **72** and anchors **74**. The various openings on either side of the embossments are for facilitating the molding of the backboard **12** and removal of the mold dies. The
10 tapers **76** project out from the backboard **12** and increase in thickness in the downward direction for a wedging action against the back wall **44** of the shelf **16** as the shelf **16** is slid into engagement with the backboard connectors **26**.

[0023] As alluded to above, the components are preferably injection molded of an organic polymeric material, i.e., a plastic material. The shelf **16** is placed in the storage or shipping position shown in Figure 2 with the shelf surface **42**
15 facing outward and the projections **58** disposed in the grooves behind the flanges **34** and engaging the bottoms **60** of the embossments. To prevent the shelf **16** from swinging outwardly, the tabs **64** overlap and are retained behind the fingers **68**. A wrapper **18** may be placed around the components **12** and **16** in this stored position for shipping and display in a retail store. Upon purchase of the components packaged
20 as shown in Figure 1, the user would remove the shelf **16** from the stored position and slide the tongues **38** into the grooves (as shown in Figure 4) until the covers **36** engage the tops **30** for supporting the shelf **16** in the cantilevered position (as shown in Figure 5). The user may also remove the shelf **16** from the backboard **12** and replace the shelf **16** in the storage position.

[0024] Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. The invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described within the scope of the appended claims. In addition, the reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not
5 to be read in any way as limiting.